

EPA R9 Wetland Program Development Grants RFA now open

The application period for the [FY 2019-2020 Wetland Program Development Grants \(WDPGs\)](#) is now open! The deadline to submit your application is April 29, 2019. **ALL grant applications must be submitted through the [Grants website](#)** unless a waiver is obtained, therefore I encourage you to **complete your registration on Grants.gov now**, since the entire process can take up to 30 days to complete. Information at [how to apply for Grants](#) will help you get started, and also has information for entities with extremely limited or no access to the internet. There is also a grants.gov training at: [Training Resources and Videos for Grants.gov](#).

Regional priorities

This year Region 9 has two regional priorities, which means applications will receive 5 extra points if they address these priorities.

1. The first regional priority is the protection and restoration of special aquatic resources that are increasingly at risk of degradation and destruction in Region 9: coral reefs, ephemeral headwater streams, isolated springs, and vernal pools.
2. The focus of the second regional priority is to improve regulatory processes so that they more fully address complex and multi-beneficial restoration projects and accelerate the execution of such projects. Examples include decision-making frameworks and a coordinated permitting process.

Biennial cycle

Region 9 now conducts a **biennial** WPDG solicitation for multiple year funding. This means grant solicitation goes out ONCE every TWO years instead of once a year as it had prior to FY15. This "FY19" WPDG solicitation will cover project periods beginning in FY20. The next WPDG solicitation will take place in FY21, for project periods starting in FY22.

About the grant:

EPA assists states, tribes, and local governments to protect and improve wetlands within their jurisdictions by awarding monetary grants under section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act. WDPGs assist state, tribal, local government agencies and interstate/intertribal entities in building state/tribal/local programs which protect, manage, and restore wetlands. The primary focus of these grants is to build state and tribal wetland programs. A secondary focus is to build local (e.g. county or municipal) programs. All proposals submitted under this RFP must be for projects that *build or refine* state/tribal/local government wetland programs. Wetland programs should include one or more of the following elements: monitoring and assessment, wetland regulation, voluntary restoration and protection, and establishing water quality standards for wetlands. **Implementation of wetland protection programs is not an eligible project under this announcement.** Total funds awarded for the two year period will be approximately \$3.1 million.

Tribal-only WPDG national competition

This RFA also was just posted today: [Tribal Wetland Program Development Grant Request for Applications](#). A separate email will be sent out with more information to our tribal partners.

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